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As the writer of this threat has no authority to dictate such an order, or the power to enforce it, it may be safe to assume that it was written under the instruction of those who have the power to give it effect. To such a menace there can be but one reply; much as we desire to see justice done to authors and their rights assured by international treaty, we would, without hesitation, decline concessions thus tendered, and hampered with conditions which would destroy the essence of the gift. We would rather counsel literary men "to possess their souls in great patience," and calmly await the day when their adversaries' souls may be possessed with moderation and justice, or public opinion be sufficiently strong to secure for them their just rights.

THE reported arrival at the port of New York of two male *woolly* elephants of dwarfish dimensions, has resulted in a request from a subscriber for authentic information regarding these strange animals.

It was alleged that the elephants in question were discovered upon the Himalaya mountains, and that the hairy covering found upon their bodies, and the great diminution of the natural size, were due to the cold of that region.

The inference to be drawn from such a description was, that the present specimens were in a measure a return to the extinct *Elephas primigenius*, the remains of one of which was found at the mouth of the river Lena in Siberia, with the flesh still in a good state of preservation, showing the skin covered with hair.

We find that the new arrivals were not found on the Himalaya mountains, but were purchased at the Parah River, Malay Peninsula, after the ship had left Calcutta. Their size is normal, for their age is not four and six years; but, probably, the smaller is about twelve months old and still feeds on milk, while the larger specimen is about two years old.

All young elephants are covered with hair, which afterwards falls off as they increase in age. These animals have this infantine crop of hair somewhat abundant, but not to an extent to create any especial wonder.

As Mr. Conklin, of the Central Park Menagerie, states, our knowledge of baby elephants is very limited in this country, and perhaps after all, the apparent excess of hair on the flanks of these animals may be normal. The young elephant, born at Philadelphia about nine months since, had a similar crop of hair, but not to the same extent.

Dr. Spitzka, of New York, who has seen these young elephants, confirms the opinion we have given, and states that they are not a new species or even a

variety; and he believes that the hair will eventually disappear, and even now finds, on the larger specimens, bald spaces.

We do not desire to spoil the speculation on these animals by stating the price at which they were sold on their arrival here, but the multiplication table has not been without its use to create an artificial value.

ACCURACY IN THERMOMETERS.

By recommendation from the Winchester Observatory, a bureau has been established at Yale College with the practical view of accurate verification of these instruments. Any person may send thermometers to this institution for the purpose of having them compared with the standard thermometer, and any variation from the accurate standard will be recorded. For the purpose of defraying the expense of these comparisons, the following scale of charges has been adopted for this verification: For standard meteorological thermometers, one dollar; for ordinary meteorological thermometers, fifty cents; for ordinary maximum thermometers, seventy-five cents; for ordinary minimum thermometers, seventy-five cents; for clinical thermometers, fifty cents. In case more than eight instruments of one kind are submitted at the same time, twenty per cent. will be deducted from these charges. Clinical thermometers, in numbers of two dozen or more, will be verified for four dollars a dozen. For thermometers of exceptional pattern, the charge will vary according to the character of each instrument. Communications relative to this subject may be addressed to Leonard Waldo, New Haven, Conn.

THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON.

The accumulation of material at Washington illustrative of the several branches of Anthropology, has drawn together a large number of specialists in Comparative Anatomy, Archæology, Ethnology, Linguistics, and Sociology. For mutual improvement a number of these gentlemen have organized the above-named society, with Major J. W. Powell as President, Dr. Elmer R. Reynolds as Secretary, and Professor Otis T. Mason as Corresponding Secretary. The facilities which the Army Medical Museum and the Smithsonian Institution, with its Bureau of Ethnology, furnish for the preservation of valuable papers obviate the necessity for a voluminous journal of the Society. We have made arrangements, however, to present abstracts of communications and discussions on the week succeeding the meetings, which take place on the first and the third Tuesday of each month. The following is a *résumé* of the proceedings of Tuesday evening, October 20th:

The Anthropological Society met in the Smithsonian Institution, Major J. W. Powell in the Chair. After the reading of the minutes the following papers were communicated; "Notes on the Identity and History of the Shawano or Shawnee Indians," by C. C. Royce; "Civilization," by Mr. B. W. Hough. Mr. Royce stated that his paper was an introductory effort to a thorough study of the Shawnese, who were the Bedouins and Ishmaelites of our territory at the time of its first settlements. The early home of these people is shrouded in mystery. After carefully going over the Jesuit relations and other early histories, the author concluded with the bold proposition that the Massawomacks, the Eries